

New Haven Register

Business News

7 area employers honored - EPA cites businesses that boost commuting alternatives for workers

By Issei Morita, Special to the Register

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BOSTON — Seven employers in Greater New Haven have made the inaugural list of the best companies in New England for commuters.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the list Thursday, designed to recognize companies that promote non-driving commuting among employees.

The local companies are Bayer in West Haven, Proton Energy Systems in Wallingford, Preferred Tool & Die in Shelton, Rideworks of Greater New Haven, the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, People's Bank in Bridgeport and Yale University.

These organizations are committed to help save their employees time and money while reducing traffic congestion, said Ira Leighton, deputy regional administrator of EPA's New England office.

In 2000, more than 6.5 million people commuted to work every day, and more than 80 percent of them drove alone, according to the EPA.

To promote public transportation, Bayer provides a shuttle for employees using a commuter rail service. The shuttle also helps employees runs errands during the day.

People's Bank rewards employees who share car rides with cash incentives of \$1 to \$1.50 a day. The bank also gives employees \$65 a month in transit subsidies.

Yale University operates an all-day shuttle system for employees, and more than 1,000 workers use the service each day.

The list includes 75 other employers throughout New England, including Dartmouth College, Delta Airlines, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, Novell and Time Warner Cable.

The EPA praised the companies for helping cut air pollution, noting that more than half of New England's ozone-forming pollution comes from motor vehicles.

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